

Preserving the legacy  
of a great inventor  
and entrepreneur



# J. ARMAND BOMBARDIER MUSEUM

Located in Valcourt, in the Eastern Townships region of Québec, the J. Armand Bombardier Museum presents the life and work of renowned Québec inventor and visionary entrepreneur Joseph-Armand Bombardier, who made history by forever changing how people travel on snow.

The Museum was established in 1971 to preserve historical artefacts representing the life and achievements of Joseph-Armand Bombardier and provides assistance to institutions, private enterprises and the general public for historic, iconographic and technical research. The Museum ensures proper use of its collections by validating content and ensuring copyright is respected. Its experts can also provide vehicle restoration advice to collectors.

## A rich heritage of history, inventions and vehicles

### *Joseph-Armand Bombardier, a passion for invention and entrepreneurship*

This exhibit reveals the life and work of the inventor of the Ski-Doo® snowmobile and showcases a variety of all-track vehicles designed by Joseph-Armand Bombardier — including a replica of his first vehicle, built when he was 15.

### *International snowmobile exhibition*

This exhibition features a vast collection of snowmobiles from different eras and every northern country in the world.

### *Bombardier Garage*

Joseph-Armand Bombardier's original garage has been fully restored and is now used as a projection room.

### *Temporary exhibitions*

Go to [museebombardier.com](http://museebombardier.com) for information on temporary and upcoming exhibitions.

## Group activities

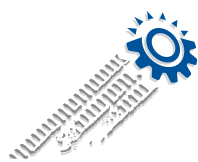
The Museum offers a wide range of group activities related to its exhibition themes. Two programs are available by reservation: the Museum/Yvonne L. Bombardier Cultural Centre program and the Museum/BRP Recreational Products factory tour program. Contact us for details.

### TO VISIT US

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[info@museebombardier.com](mailto:info@museebombardier.com)  
[museebombardier.com](http://museebombardier.com)

### OPENING HOURS

Tuesday to Sunday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
**Summer schedule (From May 1 to Labour Day)**  
Daily: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



**J. ARMAND BOMBARDIER  
MUSEUM**



**EASTERN TOWNSHIPS.org**  
My place to Be

*He perfected  
his revolutionary  
sprocket wheel/track  
system in 1935.*



#### JOSEPH-ARMAND BOMBARDIER'S LEGACY

## BOMBARDIER

**Bombardier Inc.** is an international corporation headquartered in Montréal. It develops innovative solutions in the fields of commercial and business aviation, as well as rail transportation systems and equipment and related services. The company employs highly qualified workers on five continents. For more information, go to [bombardier.com](http://bombardier.com).



# JOSEPH-ARMAND BOMBARDIER

## His destiny was set at an early age

Born April 16, 1907, in Valcourt, Québec, Joseph-Armand Bombardier was the eldest son of Alfred Bombardier and Anna Gravel. At the age of 13, he was already making mobile toys using clock mechanisms. He designed his first snow vehicle two years later. His passion was such that he soon gave up his classical studies intended to prepare him for priesthood in order to exercise the trade of apprentice mechanic.

He set up shop as a mechanic in Valcourt in 1926, in a garage built for him by his father. There, he tirelessly researched ways to solve weight and traction issues with snow vehicles.

## First success

In 1929, he married Yvonne Labrecque, with whom he would have six children. In 1934, his son Yvon died because he could not be taken to hospital in time for treatment. This event prompted Joseph-Armand Bombardier to suspend his efforts to develop a small snow vehicle and instead focus on producing a vehicle that could carry several passengers. In 1935, he developed a revolutionary sprocket wheel/track system that at long last offered a solution to snow travel. He received his first patent for the seven-passenger B7 snowmobile in 1937. That same year, Garage Bombardier became L'Auto-Neige Bombardier, which was incorporated in 1942.

## Diversification

During the war years, Joseph-Armand Bombardier turned over production to meet the war effort and continued research for civilian vehicles such as the B12. The introduction of a snow removal service for public roads forced him to diversify his production. In 1952, he was granted a patent for the Tractor Tracking Attachment (TTA) — a traction mechanism enabling tractors to negotiate previously inaccessible terrain. Sold around the world, this invention would assure the company's growth. Joseph-Armand Bombardier would subsequently enter the forestry, prospecting and drilling markets by developing the Muskeg, Hydraulic Dumping Winch (HDW) and double Muskeg (MM) products. His continued efforts to perfect his sprocket system led him to produce an unbreakable all-rubber version. With these technical advances, Joseph-Armand Bombardier made it possible to design smaller and lighter vehicles.

*He developed an impressive range of specialized vehicles.*

In the early 1960s, as Canadians were just starting to enter the era of mass consumption, the inventor launched a miniature snowmobile: the Ski-Doo® snowmobile. The success of the Ski-Doo® snowmobile heralded the development of a new sport. L'Auto-Neige Bombardier Limitée enjoyed a phenomenal success and grew into a major corporation.

### Committed to his community

In addition to his entrepreneurial activities, Joseph-Armand Bombardier took an active part in Valcourt community life. He would become a municipal councillor and founded Council 3207 of the Valcourt Knights of Columbus. In recognition of his generous support of church endeavours, he earned the title Knight of Saint-Grégoire-le-Grand in 1959.

Joseph-Armand Bombardier died in the prime of his life at age 56 on February 18, 1964. He had amassed 43 patents to his name and developed an impressive number of specialized snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles. Since then, the company he passed on to his heirs has become a world leader in transportation.

You can read Joseph-Armand Bombardier's detailed biography at [museebombardier.com](http://museebombardier.com).

*Ski-Doo is a Trademark of Bombardier Recreational Products Inc.*

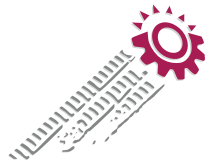


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### JOSEPH-ARMAND BOMBARDIER'S LEGACY



**BRP**, headquartered in Valcourt, is a world leader in the design, development, manufacture, distribution and marketing of recreational motor vehicles. Its products include Ski-Doo® and Lynx® snowmobiles, Sea-Doo® watercraft and sport boats, Evinrude® and Johnson® outboard motors, Can-Am™ all-terrain vehicles and roadsters as well as Rotax® motors. The company manufactures its products on three continents and distributes them in more than 80 countries. For more information, go to [brp.com](http://brp.com).

  
J. ARMAND BOMBARDIER  
FOUNDATION